[10th December 1923

Pension.

Memorial from the Government pensioners.

11 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state if the Government have received a memorial from the Government pensioners to increase their pensions and whether they have any intention of giving effect to the same to any extent whatever?

A.—The Government of India sanctioned a scheme for the relief of pensioners in receipt of the smaller pensions in January 1921 and this has been in operation since. It was declared to be subject to reconsideration at the close of three years and reconsideration is now in progress. Pending final orders, the Government of India have authorized the continuance of the payment of increased pensions whether they are chargeable to Central or Provincial revenues.

Some memorials have been received requesting the continuance of the temporary relief and others asking for an increase in the scale. These will be dealt with on receipt of the final orders of the Government of India.

Police.

Punitive police in Kurnool.

12 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether any proposals have been submitted to Government for the imposition of punitive police in the Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks of the Kurnool district;

(2) if so, the grounds on which the imposition of punitive police has been recommended;

(3) whether any orders have been issued by Government regarding that matter; and

(4) if so, what orders have been issued?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2) The hon. Member is referred to the answer of question No. 2 which gives the reason for the District Magistrate's recommendation.

(3) No.

(4) The question does not arise.

Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi:—"Will the hon. the Law Member hear me privately before any order is passed by the Government?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"I have no objection, Mr. President."

Railways.

Railway programme for the Madras Presidency.

13 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there is any programme of railway construction for the Madras Presidency and, if so, whether any, and, if so, what district board railway schemes are included in it?